

Thus, Shiga et al. does not disclose or suggest the combinations of features recited in the independent claims of this application. With respect to independent claims 1, 8 and 15, Shiga et al. does not disclose or suggest an arrangement in which a second inspection apparatus (claim 1), a second inspection step (claim 8), or an inspection section (claim 15) executes inspection of substrates that do not (or of a substrate that does not) have a defect based on information on the presence/absence of a defect that was determined as a result of a macro inspection. With respect to independent claims 3, 10 and 16, Shiga et al. does not disclose or suggest a second inspection apparatus (claim 3), a second inspection step (claim 10), or an inspection section (claim 16) that executes inspection of substrates that do not (or of a substrate that does not) have a defect distributed in a predetermined portion based on information on the distribution of a defect obtained as a result of a macro inspection of the substrate. With respect to independent claims 5, 12 and 17, Shiga et al. does not disclose or suggest a second inspection apparatus (claim 5), a second inspection step (claim 12), or an inspection section (claim 17) that determines substrate(s) to be inspected from a plurality of substrates based on information on distribution and classification of a defect obtained as a result of a macro inspection of the substrate.

Accordingly, the independent claims, as well as their dependent claims, are patentable over Shiga et al. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Date: October 25, 2005

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